

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 09863 140626Z
ACTION EA-09

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, KS
SUBJECT: MYONGDONG TRIAL: SIXTH APPEALS SESSION

REF: A) SEOUL 9814, B) SEOUL 6061

SUMMARY. COURT CONCLUDED EXAMINATION OF DEFENDANTS.
QUESTIONING OF KIM TAE-CHUNG EXTENSIVE. HE WAS AGGRESSIVE IN
CRITICIZING ROKG BUT TOOK PAINS TO POINT OUT THAT HE WAS NOT
OPPOSED TO ALL ROKG POLICIES. PROSECUTION ASKED FOR SAME
DEGREE OF PUNISHMENT OF ACCUSED THAT IT DEMANDED AT DISTRICT
COURT HEARING, NAMELY SENTENCES VARYING FROM 10 TO 3 YEARS
IMPRISONMENT FOR DEFENDANTS IN RELATION TO THEIR DEGREE OF
RESPONSIBILITY FOR MYONGDONG DECLARATION. NEXT SESSION SET
FOR DECEMBER 17. END SUMMARY.

1. SIXTH SESSION MYONGDONG APPEALS TRIAL DECEMBER 13. COURT
HEARD BRIEF EXAMINATION OF MUN CHONG-HYON WHO AGAIN
DEMANDED THAT KIM CHI-HA BE CALLED AS WITNESS; OF YI MUN-
YONG WHO DEFENDED ASSERTION THAT YUSHIN CONSTITUTION NOT
BINDING BECAUSE REFERENDUM APPROVING IT PASSED UNDER
MARTIAL LAW WHICH IS A FORM OF COERCION; OF MUN IK-HWAN
WHO REITERATED THAT CITIZEN'S RIGHT OF PETITION NECESSARY
BUT IMPOSSIBLE IN KOREA; OF MUN TONG-SWAN WHO CONFIRMED
LIMITATIONS ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN KOREA.

2. KIM TAE-CHUNG WAS QUESTIONED AT LENGTH BY DEFENSE
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ATTORNEYS. HE CLAIMED THAT HOSTILE ATTITUDE OF COURT AND

PROSECUTION TOWARD HIM NOT DUE TO HIS COMMISSION OF CRIME BUT TO PRESSURE APPLIED BY PRESIDENT PARK WITH WHOM KIM HAS POLITICAL DIFFERENCES. KIM AGGRESSIVELY CRITICIZED ROKG POLICIES, ASKING, FOR EXAMPLE, HOW ROKG-LINKED SCANDALS IN U.S. CONTRIBUTE TO KOREA'S NATIONAL SECURITY. HE DERIDED ASSERTION THAT NATIONAL SECURITY JUSTIFIED REPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS GIVING EXAMPLE OF DEMOCRATIC ISRAEL CRUSHING DICTATOR LED ARAB STATES. HE POINTED OUT THAT HE DID NOT DISAGREE WITH GOALS OR ALL POLICIES OF ROKG. FOR EXAMPLE, HE HOPED ECONOMIC SUCCESS WOULD CONTINUE BUT SAID HE WOULD EMPHASIZE RURAL ECONOMY MORE THAN ROKG. HE SAID HE WOULD GIVE MORE ATTENTION TO INCOME DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS AND COMBAT THE CONCENTRATION OF ECONOMIC POWER IN THE HANDS OF A FEW GIANT FIRMS. HE SAID THAT HE SUPPORTED THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF U.S. TROOPS IN KOREA AND HAD MADE THIS VIEW KNOWN THROUGH MRS. KIM TAE CHUNG TO SUCH PERSONS AND GROUPS AS JEROME COHEN AND THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES. HIS BASIC DIFFERENCE WITH THE ROKG DEALT WITH KOREANS'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT. HE POINTED OUT THAT KOREA HAD FACED SERIOUS THREATS SINCE WORLD WAR II AND HAD SURVIVED WITHOUT RESORTING TO EXTREME POLICIES ADOPTED BY CURRENT REGIME. ASKED WHETHER HE HAD POLITICAL AMBITIONS, HE REPLIED, "WHY ASK ME ABOUT AMBITION WHEN YOU HAVE A CHIEF WHO HAS BEEN IN OFFICE 15 YEARS AND STILL WISHES TO REMAIN."

3. COURT ANNOUNCED AGAIN THAT IT WOULD HEAR NO MORE WITNESSES. PROSECUTOR SAID HIS ORIGINAL SUMMATION DELIVERED AT DISTRICT COURT REMAINED VALID AND HE WOULD NOT REPEAT IT. HE NOTED THAT DEFENDANTS STILL SHOWED NO SIGNS OF REPENTANCE AND SAID HE ASKED FOR THE SAME PUNISHMENT HE REQUESTED DURING DISTRICT COURT HEARINGS. HE DID NOT READ LIST OF SENTENCES DEMANDED BUT THEY RANGED FROM TEN TO THREE YEARS IN RELATION TO HIS ESTIMATE OF DEGREE OF CULPABILITY OF DEFENDANTS FOR MYONGDONG INCIDENT. (SEE REF B).

4. COURT SET NEXT SESSION FOR DECEMBER 17.
SNEIDER

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